

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 13, 1999 LB 505

enough money to ante up the cost of their drug, whatever it is. Nobody can point out a drug that does as much damage to this society as tobacco. We're going to have bills talking about increase the penalties for this drug, increase the penalty for that drug, but not one of those drugs will result in as much death as tobacco products, and that includes the homicides that are committed in the context of selling and dealing in those drugs. You know why none of that makes any difference now? Because we're not talking about putting a whole lot of people in prison with a 1,000-year sentence. When that happens, then we'll have people jumping up all over the place, saying, yeah, these drugs are terrible, and we have to punish, punish, punish. But then you've got a drug that's killing far more people than all those drugs put together, but the tobacco industry, out there fat as hogs, not all of them, one is tall as a pine tree, and I think he chews, tall as a pine tree, big as a house, pockets full of money, and they say, chomping that cigar, or got a pinch between the cheek and the gum, do this, and the Legislature does it. Not everybody in the Legislature, but some of my colleagues who voted for the tobacco industry give better arguments than they gave here today.

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's why I know that it's all a sham. And I know there's somebody pulling a string on them, one way or the other. They know it, too. So we will see what we shall see. But if there are young people watching how spineless this Legislature is, and how it rolls over to the tobacco industry, they don't have a reason to respect this Legislature. But some of them talked about being willing to put punishments and penalties on the children, they'll always do that. For having an open container, yeah, punish 'em. Take their driver's license, all of this stuff. When the tobacco industry is the culprit, they say, punish the children and let the tobacco industry go on doing what it's doing. Absolutely, positively insane. The whole world is crazy, and America is the violent ward.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Landis, you are next to...oh,